

Page 1

MAY and JUNE AT A GLANCE

Countdown To Summer Special Program Offerings At The Outdoor Adventure Center.

Afternoon Adventures for Adults Fishing & Birding 101

May 2, World Turtle Day Celebration

June 18, Father's Day Craft

Summer 2016

Summer is on the way

Summer means longer days, warmer nights and lots of time for outdoor fun. We will be playing games, taking hikes, riding bikes and so much more – you really ought to join the fun! New this month, we are offering special afternoon programs for senior groups. See page four for more information. We will also be partnering with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Rivertown Detroit to bring Fishing Fest and River Days to all of our friends. You don't want to miss any of these events!

Park of the Month Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery

One prime example is Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery in Mattawan. The department's southernmost fish-raising facility is not just a hatchery, it's a museum, a classroom, a park and a recreation center all rolled into one.

"It really is a family destination in southwest Michigan," said Shana Ramsey, the interpreter at the Wolf Lake visitor center. "It's not too far off the beaten path, but it's quiet and interesting and fun; it's a hidden gem."

We will be featuring this interesting and interactive destination throughout the month.

Table of Content

Summer is on the way 2-4

May at a Glance 5-8

June at a Glance 8-11

Behind The Scenes At The OAC 12-14

Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Staff

Samuel Delia

Jackie Hoskins

Tess Miller

Frank Toarmina

Linda Walter

1801 Atwater

Detroit MI 48207

844-622-6367 or 844-OAC-MDNR

Website: www.michigan.gov/oac

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/MiOutdoorAdventureCenter

MiOutdoorAdventureCenter

Hours of Operation

Monday Closed

Tuesday Closed

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Admission Fees

Adults (age 13-61) \$5

Seniors (age 62 and older) \$3

Children (ages 2-12) \$3

Children under age 2 Free

Annual family membership \$50

Summer 2016

Annual Family Membership

The cost of an annual family membership to the Outdoor Adventure Center is \$50. For the purposes of the OAC annual family membership, a family is defined as up to five adults and/or children residing in the same household. Additional family members and/or guests will pay individual rates for the admission and/or activity.

Benefits of membership include:

- \$30% discount off Lodge birthday parties
- Exclusive, early admission to a select group of our special events
- First glance (before the general public) to all newsletters and flyers
- Members-only events held in July and December

WOW Wild Over Wednesday

The last Wednesday of each month, we offer free admission from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for all of our visitors, and special programs, fun and games around a specific topic each month, plus enjoy all the exhibits at the Outdoor Adventure Center. There will be story time for our youngest guests, hands-on experiences, games and informational sessions for interested visitors. See pages 7 and 11 for programs.

When you visit, you can also earn digital badges through Detroit Public TV's Digital Adventure Program.

Meeting/Event Space Spotlight

Looking for a unique venue to hold your corporate meeting, retreat or team builder? Check out the Outdoor Adventure

Center (OAC). The OAC is on Detroit's waterfront and is surrounded by the Dequindre Cut, Riverwalk, Milliken State Park and The Light House!

The OAC has six rooms for meetings/event. Two of our most used spaces are the Forest and Rivers. These rooms can be used as one (total capacity of 153) large space or divided into two. Both rooms have LCD projectors, screens, podiums and mics, all with our compliments!

There is nothing average about our meeting space! Take in the views of Detroit's Downtown Skyline, Detroit River and Canada from the Forest room. Enjoy the industrial charm of the Rivers room with its exposed bricks. For more information, call 844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367) or email DNR-OAC@michigan.gov

Each room can be set to your specifications using the following with our compliments:

- All audio & visual equipment in our inventory
- 60 Round tables (8 chairs each)
- 5x2 Rectangle tables
- 6x2 Rectangle tables
- Comfortable Chairs

Some of our clients that have used these room are:

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Moosejaw, Wayne State University and the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy just to name a few.

We have free parking in the black gated lot on east Atwater, across from the Milliken Marina. Your guests may also park at any legal street spaces.

For more information on room rentals at the OAC, contact our Promotional Agent, Jackie Hoskins at 1-844-622-6367 or DNR-OAC@michigan.gov

Summer 2016

Afternoon Adventures for Adults

Is your senior group looking for a new experience?

We have a great new adventure for your consideration.

Begin your trip with a lunch in Rivertown.

Then join us at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided experience or attend a special program just for your group. Looking to make a day of it? Spend your morning at beautiful Belle Isle!

The following restaurants are available to book a group dining experience - mention the OAC to get special group rates:!

- Big Boy E. Jefferson 7033 E. Jefferson Ave. 313-259-1360
- Andrews on the Corner 201 Jos Campau 313-259-8325
- Atwater Brewery 237 Jos Campau 313-877-9205

After lunch head over to the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for a self-guided tour (just \$2 per person) or add interesting program. See program options below – for just \$2 more per person. Complete your application and submit today – these spots will go fast. Arrival times for Afternoon Adventures are 1:00pm and 1:30pm. The Outdoor Adventure Center closes at 3:00pm each weekday. Start your reservation at: www.michigan.gov/oac, then choose Educate, then Adult Afternoon Programs Application.

Each class is 1 hour long. Program choices include:

Start your reservation at www.michigan.gov/oac, then

choose Educate, then Adult Afternoon Programs.

Program choices include:

Fishing 101

Fishing is a lifetime sport and it is never too late to try it. If you have never fished, or you are looking for a chance to refresh your skills. This session will include discussion of licenses, fish identification and behavior, strategies, and local water to visit and try your luck.

Birding for Beginners

The Detroit River is an amazing place for birders. From our regular friends who live and nest here to the thousands who visit us through fly-ways – we are in a great place to begin a birding hobby. You will learn the basics of birding and practice some bird ID along the Riverfront. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Dress for the weather.

Birth of a Land Ethic

Explore Michigan's White Pine Era and lessons learned about the wise use of natural resources. An interesting travel through Michigan's history.

City Slickers

Learn the special adaptations of wild mammals in urban environments. Explore the concepts of predator-prey relationships and identify common wild mammals in Detroit. Weather permitting, this could include a walk on the RiverWalk or Dequindre Cut, both are paved and flat – no steep grades or hills.

Field Trips for School, Camp and Church Programs

Plan a day of adventure and fun.

Groups of every age will be inspired by the richness of Michigan's natural resources. All school educational programs align with Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations. General admission for groups is \$2 per person (both children and adults), available for groups of 20 or more.

NEW IN MAY –

- Pre-and post-test handouts for many of our classes.
- Team Building Class options for adults and children.
- Information to help prepare for your group trip
- Field Trip Application for Groups

For more information, please contact us at DNR-OAC@michigan.gov or 844-622-6367.

Scout Badge Workshops

All badge workshops are by appointment for troops. Open workshops are by pre-registration only. There are a limited number of spots available – please sign up early. Upon the completion of the session, the Scout will have earned the badge described (actual badges awarded by your troop at a later date). Scouts will also be given a special Outdoor Adventure Center patch for their brag vests. Cost is \$10 per Scout and includes all-day admission to the Outdoor Adventure Center. Must have a minimum of eight Scouts to reserve a badge workshop. NEW this month: Girl Scout Cadette Archery Badge Workshop.

Please submit the Scout Badge Workshop Application form to register. For more information, please contact us at 844-OAC-MDNR (844-622-6367)

or DNR-OAC@michigan.gov.

- Scout Badge Workshop Application Form

May at a glance

May 1 Sunday

Explore Archery Class

1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.

This one-hour class will teach the basics. Topics include range safety, rules, equipment, the 11 steps to shooting and arrow retrieval. All equipment is provided. Children, adults and families are welcome. Children must be age 8 or older to participate and must present a signed parent/guardian waiver.

You must pre-register.

Class minimum is 8 eight participants.

Class maximum is 12 participants.

Ages: 8 years old and up

FEE: \$12

May 4 Wednesday

May the Fourth Be With You

We LOVE Star Wars, don't you? Come dressed as your favorite Star Wars character or just in your favorite Star Wars clothes - we will too! Test your movie knowledge with our fun games and activities. Take a picture with your favorite character in our building. There may even be a special guest from the Star Wars universe popping up during your visit.

May 7 Saturday

Mother's Day Crafts

Come celebrate Mother's Day, one day early, with the Outdoor Adventure Center staff. Leave your moms at home to relax or head to the spa, while the rest of the family comes to the OAC for a delightful adventure. Make a mom-inspired nature craft (or two!) to take home and surprise the most important lady in your life. Free with the price of admission.

May 8 Sunday

Archery Try It

1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to learn more about archery. Four different sessions. Must be 8 years old or older. This experience is included in the price of admission. Limited to 10 guests each half-hour. You must sign up on-site and present a ticket to access the range. Minors must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver before they participate.

May at a glance

May 14 Saturday

Try It! - Birding for Beginners

3:00 p.m.

During the month of May, many birds are migrating along the Detroit River, and some may be setting up their nesting areas for the season already. Join us on International Migratory Bird Day to learn the basics of birding and practice some bird identification along the riverfront. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Dress for the weather. You must sign up on-site and present a ticket to join the fun. Limited number of spots available. This experience is only for guests who are attending the OAC on this date and is included free, with the price of admission

Sundays May 15 - June 12

Introduction to Archery Class

This 5 week course will introduce children to archery in a safe and fun environment. During this course, children will gain knowledge about the equipment, the steps to shoot, and how to retrieve their arrows. Each student must present a signed parent/guardian waiver. All equipment is provided.

You must pre-register.

Class minimum is 8 eight participants.

Class maximum is 12 participants.

FEE: \$60

Week 1: Rules and Equipment

Week 2: Stance and Nock

Week 3: Hook and Grip

Week 4: Anchoring and Aiming

Week 5: Release and Follow Through

DAY DATE TIME

Sunday May 15 – June 12 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday May 15 – June 12 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

May at a glance

May 21 Saturday

World Turtle Day Celebration

Who doesn't love turtles? Come celebrate World Turtle Day with a weekend of turtle fun!

Come see live turtles, learn what makes them special and unique, and find out what you can do to help turtles in our local environment. We will also have interactive turtle activities and prizes for any kid (or kid at heart!) dressed like a turtle.

Cowabunga, dudes!

May 22 Sunday

Archery Try It

1:00 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to learn more about archery. Four different sessions. Must be 8 years old or older. This experience is included in the price of admission. Limited to 10 guests each half-hour. You must sign up on-site and present a ticket to access the range. Minors must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver before they participate.

May 25 Wednesday

WOW Wild Over Wednesday

Intro to Fishing – Extended hours

6:00pm - 8:00 p.m.

The month of May can be one of the most productive times of the year to be out fishing on local waterways. The Detroit River and Lake St. Clair are nationally known for their abundance and large sizes of popular fish species including small-mouth bass, musky, walleye and perch. During this Wild Over Wednesday, we are talking about fishing opportunities around Detroit and how to get prepared for a fun and successful fishing experience. Come test your knowledge of Michigan fish characteristics and behavior, learn how to tie effective knots, and discuss strategies and techniques that will help you catch your next trophy fish. Limited time to fish can be included for those under 16 years old or adults with a fishing license. A limited number of fishing rods will be provided, or you may bring your own. Bait provided. **FREE ADMISSION**

May at a glance

May 28 Saturday
Outdoor Game Day
2:30 -4:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the first big holiday weekend and start of summer vacations! There is no better way to kick off summer than by spending some quality time outside playing games. We will feature a variety of family-friendly lawn games, sidewalk chalk games, and even some team-building games! Once you've had your fill of games, come kick up your feet by the bonfire and roast some marshmallows to create delicious s'mores (for the first 100 guests). Free with the price of admission.

May 29 Sunday
Try It - Dequindre Cut Bike Ride
3:00 p.m.

May is National Bike Month! There is no better way to help celebrate than to ride the beautiful Dequindre Cut! Enjoy an educational bike ride along the Dequindre Cut and learn about the rich history of the trail as well as the surrounding area. Michigan is the Trail State! We have over 13,000 miles worth of different trails, including, hiking, biking and even ORV trails. Don't forget to bring your bike. If you don't have a ride – we can help! Thanks to our friends at Wheelhouse Detroit, you can rent a bike to join us for this exciting event. Meet on the front lawn of the Outdoor Adventure Center at 2:45 p.m. We will return by 4:15 p.m. If you need to rent a bike, make a reservation by calling Wheelhouse Detroit at www.wheelhousedetroit.com/rental or call 313-656-2403. All those who rent at Wheelhouse will need to arrive at their location (1340 Atwater St., just two blocks from the OAC) by 2:30 p.m. to complete paperwork and make your payment. This is an out-and-back trail, paved and flat – no hills. The Outdoor Adventure Center will provide a lead and lag rider and interpretive information along the ride.

June at a glance

June 4 Saturday

Try It – Kite Flying

3:00 p.m.

Ever wanted to try and fly a kite but never could find a good windy day? Luckily, you can join us at the Outdoor Adventure Center! We will walk across the street to beautiful, and windy, Milliken State Park to enjoy the strong breeze that usually blows off the Detroit River. This will be an opportunity to learn how to fly a kite and enjoy the beautiful skyline of Detroit and the majesty of the Detroit River! Bring your own kite or purchase one of ours – we will have 100 kites for sale for just \$2 each.

June 5 Sunday

Explore Archery Class

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This one-hour class will teach the basics. Topics include range safety, rules, equipment, the 11 steps to shooting and arrow retrieval. All equipment is provided. Children, adults and families are welcome. Children must be age 8 or older to participate and must present a signed parent/guardian waiver.

You must pre-register.

Class maximum is 12 participants.

FEE: \$12

June 11 Saturday

Try It - Container Plants

3:30 p.m.

The warm days and nights make this a perfect time for planting. You don't need a plot of land to grow fresh vegetables. Many vegetables lend themselves well to container gardening. If you give it a large enough pot and plenty of soil and water, your plants will grow just fine and reward you with a nice little crop. Children will plant seeds in a small container and take home a plant to nurture. In just a few weeks they will have their own home-grown vegetables.

Limited to the first 100 children.

Free with the price of admission

June at a glance

June 12 Sunday

Archery Try It

1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

This is your opportunity to learn more about archery. Four different sessions. Must be 8 years old or older. This experience is included in the price of admission. Limited to 10 guests each half-hour. You must sign up on-site and present a ticket to access the range. Minors must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver before they participate.

Fishing Fest with Detroit Riverfront Conservancy at Milliken State Park

Noon-4:00 p.m.

The 6th Annual Kids Fishing Fest promises to be full day of multigenerational fun! Join the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy, DNR, Rivertown Detroit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Outdoor Adventure Center at this annual event that aims to teach kids how to fish during Free Fishing Weekend. Event includes free snacks, free bait, free pole rental and a free River Days pass to each participating child.

For more information and to register, visit <http://detroitriverfront.org/2016kidsfishingfest>

June 18 Saturday

Father's Day Craft

In honor of our hard-working fathers, guests of the Outdoor Adventure Center will have an opportunity to design and create a wildlife-themed Father's Day card. Not only will your dad appreciate the love and effort from a homemade card, you might actually learn a few things about Michigan mammals that you could share with him.. Free with the price of admission.

June at a glance

June 24 Friday, June 25 Saturday, June 26 Sunday
River Days

This one-of-a-kind festival takes place along the Detroit Riverfront - from the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority Terminal and Dock, just west of the GM Renaissance Center, to Rivard Plaza and William G. Milliken State Park. River Days is a celebration of Detroit's RiverWalk, with activities on land and water. Experience all the RiverWalk has to offer, from tall ships, jet-ski demos and riverboat tours to live music, sand sculptures, kids activities, delicious eats and much more! For the past nine years, River Days has served as the official kickoff to summer for many Metro Detroiters. In 2015, GM River Days presented by Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort drew 150,000 people to the shores of the Detroit River for a family-friendly, three-day weekend of music, activities, food and fun. Learn more at www.riverdays.com.

June 29 Wednesday
WOW Wild Over Wednesday
Summer Fun in Michigan
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the start of summer vacation! There is no better way to kick off summer than by spending some quality time outside playing games. We will feature a variety of family-friendly lawn games, sidewalk chalk games, and even some team-building games! Once you've had your fill of games, come kick up your feet by the bonfire and roast some marshmallows to create delicious s'mores for the first 100 people. **FREE ADMISSION**

Behind the Scenes at the OAC

Who Wore It Best?

The adventure buff (a head wrap that can be worn many different ways) is the signature souvenir for the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. Submit a photo of you, members of your family or a whole group wearing the OAC buff. Each newsletter we are going to select the best submissions and award prizes. Simply post your best photo to our Facebook page. Start snapping those selfies— we can't wait to see your best photos.

Employee Spotlight MAY – Meet Patricia E. Jackson

Patricia has been with us since the beginning. She can assist with any exhibit area or run the front counter with ease. Her motto is: "I love Detroit, and Detroit loves me. Ms. Jackson attended Cass Technical High School and Wayne State University.

She loves to volunteer and has quite a resume of organizations she has helped, including Parade Company, Habitat for Humanity, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Jazz Festival, the Detroit Tigers and "whoever else calls me.

Patricia's interests include R&B music from the '50s-'80s, dance classes, house music, outdoor concerts and libraries/reading.

Patricia Jackson loves her work at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. When asked why, she said "I like working at the OAC because it's something the whole family can enjoy and it is an affordable price. I often work the front counter, and when I tell people their total entry fee they go, wow - is that all? Detroit needs more places like this. My favorite part is the airplane. It just looks so cool up on its perch in the air. It is just an unexpected surprise to new visitors. Patricia is an unexpected surprise to our visitors as well, as her friendly face and enthusiasm help engage them. We hope you'll come for a visit soon. When you come, you can be sure that the smiling face that greets you is our own Patricia Jackson.

Behind the Scenes at the OAC

Employee Spotlight JUNE – Meet Patrick Endres

Mr. Endres grew up in Southeast Michigan. He attended Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights and received his bachelor's degree in history from Wayne State University in 2013.

He is a certified conservation steward, through MSU Extension.

Patrick has been involved in the environmental education field since 2010, when he first worked for the Michigan DNR. He spent five years as a state park explorer guide at William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor. Patrick was the first person to hold this position at Milliken State Park, and has returned each season because of his love for the job. He is passionate about sharing the beautiful things in nature with park guests.

Patrick was part of a very small team of educators who began working on the programming for the Outdoor Adventure Center, before it opened, during the summer of 2014. He also conducted significant outreach events while the center was under construction.

Patrick is responsible for our teaching supply inventory, along with his regular programming duties. He is also the range master for our archery range, and you can find him at the range whenever time permits. When asked what he likes best about his role on the OAC team he says, "What I love most about working at the OAC is being able to teach and inspire every generation that visits the center about the cultural and natural resources we have in our great state.

We are inspired and motivated by Patrick's enthusiasm and commitment each day. Whether you are interested in archery, geology, history or wildlife – Patrick Endres is a natural-born teacher who will make you love to learn.

How did the OAC's Bob-Lo boat display happen?

Though not originally planned for the history section, the Bob-Lo boat display is a favorite of many of our guests. It came to us by way of a generous, local couple, Harry & Lynn Kurtz. This delightful pair are lifelong residents of the Grosse Pointes and enjoyed trips on Bob Lo Boats while growing up. The waterways, through and around Detroit, are very special to them both.

The model of the Columbia was originally constructed by Harvey Nissley, of Riverview, Michigan, a renowned scale model ship builder. Examples of his exceptional work can be found in maritime museums throughout the state and country.

How you decided to donate to the OAC? We were first introduced to Linda Walter, of the OAC, by our mutual friend, Chip Rhode. It was before the facility opened but Linda was able to describe it in such a manner that we felt compelled to somehow contribute. It occurred to us there was a direct connection between the Bob Lo Boats and the Globe Building so, it was a perfect fit.

Anything else you would like to share? We are thrilled to know the story Bob Lo Boats will live on in perpetuity at the OAC. The history of the Detroit area is an important aspect of why many people chose to remain living here, as well as move back. Scale models tell a story that no painting or photograph can rival. Telling our own children the story about going to Bob Lo on the boats and moon light cruises is part of our rich family heritage. Hopefully, our children will someday taking our grandchildren to the OAC and be able to tell them all the wonderful stories!

The Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center proudly display your generous gifts. We wish you could hear the many exclamations as folks "find" the Bob-Lo boat in the display – it evokes so many cherished memories!

Behind the Scenes at the OAC

Highlights from March and April

of Michigan farmers and their role in good stewardship. Upland Hills Farms brought some of its spring babies to the OAC, and our archery range became a barn for the day. Our staff is still talking about Mario and Luigi, the baby goats.

Granddad's Sweet Tea

Our gift shop is a small area in the building where we feature only the best of the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan. One of our items is Granddad's Sweet Tea. We discovered this tea at a Rivertown Detroit meeting – Detroit really is more small town than major city in the way it connects its people. Rick McQueen has been producing this pure, smooth tea in Detroit since 2008. The product is so pure that it is sold in Whole Foods.

Mr. McQueen is fond of saying, "If God's given you a vision – follow it and don't quit. With summer on the way, iced tea is the drink of choice – make your choice Granddad's

Behind the Scenes at the OAC

Highlights from March and April

of Michigan farmers and their role in good stewardship. Upland Hills Farms brought some of its spring babies to the OAC, and our archery range became a barn for the day. Our staff is still talking about Mario and Luigi, the baby goats.

Granddad's Sweet Tea

Our gift shop is a small area in the building where we feature only the best of the city of Detroit and the state of Michigan. One of our items is Granddad's Sweet Tea. We discovered this tea at a Rivertown Detroit meeting – Detroit really is more small town than major city in the way it connects its people. Rick McQueen has been producing this pure, smooth tea in Detroit since 2008. The product is so pure that it is sold in Whole Foods.

Mr. McQueen is fond of saying, "If God's given you a vision – follow it and don't quit. With summer on the way, iced tea is the drink of choice – make your choice Granddad's

This newsletter is posted bi-monthly on our website and is available by email.

Visit www.michigan.gov/oac and click on "About Us" and look for the red envelope to sign up.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.